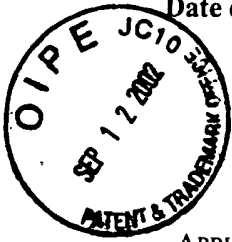


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Attorney Docket No. 15966-518 RCE
(CURA-18 RCE)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
TECHNICAL CENTER 1600/2900

APPLICANTS: Mehta *et al.*
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/351,617
FILING DATE: July 12, 1999
FOR: GENERAL SCREENING METHOD FOR LIGAND-PROTEIN INTERACTION

EXAMINER: P. Ponnaluri
ART UNIT: 1627

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 12, 2002

In response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2002 ("Office Action"), Applicants submit herewith in the above mentioned patent application a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of time and a check for \$460.00 to cover the small entity fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3). With the extension, these documents are due on or before September 12, 2002. Please charge any additional payments or credit any overpayments of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, reference 15966-518 RCE (CURA-18 RCE).

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Kindly replace the pending claims with the following claims:

1. A method for identifying a cellular component to which a small molecule is capable of binding, comprising:

- DI
- (a) providing a hybrid ligand consisting essentially of two ligands, identified as ligand A and ligand B that are linked together, wherein
 - (i) ligand A has a specificity for a predetermined target;
 - (ii) ligand A forms an irreversible bond with the predetermined target;
 - (iii) and ligand B is the small molecule;
 - (b) introducing the hybrid ligand into at least one sample, the sample containing an environment, the environment containing;